Mixing of toxic octane-booster in petrol

4263. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Euro-III emission norms have been introduced in Delhi and other metro cities *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that oil firms are using toxic octane-booster in petrol;

(d) whether this damages the brain and clogs the vehicle emission system; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government to ensure that oil companies do not at all use this toxic octane-enchancer?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Euro-III equivalent Petrol & Diesel has been introduced from 1.4.2005 in 11 identified cities *i.e.* Delhi/National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur & Agra.

(c) to (e) Except for Numaligarh Refinery which uses marginal quantities of Methylcyclopentadienyl Manganese Tricarbonyl (MMT) as a trimming agent for a marginal increase in the octane number of Motor Spirit, other Public Sector Oil Refineries are not using MMT any more. Numaligarh Refinery Limited too will discontinue the use of MMT by March 2006, by when the new facilities being set up by them for producing Motor spirit are expected to be completed.

Measures to ensure delivery of subsidised Kerosene/LPG to the targeted segments

4264. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an elaborate plan has been drawn up to stop the diversion of kerosene supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS) for adulteration of diesel and petrol and to strengthen the distribution network of subsidized kerosene and domestic LPG so that these essential items actually reach the targeted segments of the population;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) the details of fresh steps outlined, if any, in the new scheme to address the problems/difficulties faced by the people inhabiting the far-flung areas of the country in getting these supplies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A pilot project covering 10% of blocks in the country has been recently approved by the Government for strengthening the distribution network of PDS kerosene with a view to working towards ensuring that this product is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration. The Scheme proposes setting up wholesale storage facilities at block level, with storage tanks and calibrated dispensing units; creation of 5-10 sub-wholesale points within the block to facilitate deliveries to retail outlets; and involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in monitring the implementation of the scheme. The details are being worked out. In addition, Government have commissioned the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to conduct a study to ascertain the actual demand for kerosene in different States in the country. Further necessary action in deciding State-wise allocations of PDS kerosene would be taken after receiving this study report.

As regards domestic LPG, with a view to increasing the coverage in semi-urban/rural areas, Government have advised Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to prepare their expansion plans concentrating in these areas and taking innovative steps like opening community kitchens, sale of 5 kg. cylinders for low income group of customers, etc.

Complaints against LPG dealers in Bihar

4265. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG distributors/dealers of various companies in Bihar;

(b) the names of the owners/distributors/dealers in each case;

(c) the category to which they belong; and

(d) the details of complaints received against such distributors/dealers during the last two years and the current year so far and action taken in each case?